

COUNTY SOCIETIES.

Alameda County.

The regular monthly meeting of the Alameda County Medical Society was held on December 19, 1905. Appendicitis was the subject of the evening. Dr. T. C. McCleave spoke upon the "Pathology of Appendicitis," including etiology, touching briefly on the various theories as to the cause of the disease, the various bacteria found in the inflamed appendix, the role of foreign bodies, now known to be of slight importance, the influence of age, sex, race, traumatism, etc. Dietary indiscretions were stated to be perhaps the chief exciting cause of acute inflammations of the appendix, though, of course, the immediate cause is always bacterial infection. The streptococcus pyogenes is probably most important in this connection, next the B. coli communis. Other organisms found are the B. pyocyaneus, B. proteus vulgaris, micrococcus pyogenes, and, doubtfully, the pneumococcus. The B. typhosis, B. tuberculosis, ameba coli, actinomyces, etc., produce specific inflammatory processes in appendix.

The pathologic changes in the appendix were considered under the following heads (Kelly's classification): (1) Acute appendicitis—catarrhal, diffuse, purulent, perforative, or gangrenous. (2) Subacute and chronic appendicitis. (3) Peritonitis accompanying or resulting from appendicitis. (4) Metastatic affections—lesions of distant organs resulting from appendicitis.

The gross and microscopic tissue changes occurring in these several types of the disease were discussed at considerable length and cannot well be epitomized.

Dr. W. A. Clark read a paper on the "Surgical Treatment of Appendicitis." He took the ground that early operation is the treatment of choice in all cases of appendicitis. He described the various operations and gave statistics of his work at the Alameda County Hospital. This paper elicited considerable discussion, the members present for the most part agreeing with the principles laid down by Dr. Clark.

The society then spent a social hour in the discussion of the beer and sandwiches which are now a regular feature of the meetings.

The annual business meeting of the society was held on January 16, 1906. The following officers were elected: President, Dr. Shannon; vice-presidents, Dr. Crosby and Dr. Keyes; secretary, Dr. Pratt; treasurer, Dr. Dukes; trustees, Drs. Miller, Adams, Smith; delegates, Drs. Thomas and Lily.

T. C. McCLEAVE.

Contra Costa County.

The Contra Costa County Medical Society held its regular quarterly meeting in Dr. Abbott's office, Point Richmond, December 10th.

Before the business meeting the society was tendered a dinner by its local members, and was an enjoyable surprise.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That the minimum fee for examination for the "old line" life insurance companies be \$5; for fraternal insurance companies and other organizations, \$2; for ordinary examinations for fraternities, \$1.

The secretary was instructed to prepare the above resolution so that each member could have a signed copy framed.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Clark L. Abbott, Point Richmond; vice-president, Herbert C. Watts, Pinole; secretary, J. Walter Key, Crockett; treasurer, J. L. Riley, Port Costa; delegate, J. T. Breneman, Martinez.

Dues for the local society were raised from one to one dollar and a half.

J. WALTER KEY, Secretary.

Monterey County.

At the last meeting of the Monterey County Medical Society, held in Pacific Grove, January 6th, the society advanced another step in the corporation proceedings by electing as directors for the first year: Drs. J. Parker, E. K. Abbott, A. M. Ritchie, D. Brumwell and E. A. Majors. The meeting was well attended, and was followed by a banquet in Hotel El Carmelo.

The profession as well as the public of Monterey county and Salinas city in particular are congratulating themselves at the prospect of having a fine modern sanitarium which will be built and presented to the city by Mr. James Bardin. The building is to be of molten Monterey sand. There will be about fifteen private rooms, besides the wards, a three-room operating department and a solarium. An X-ray and all late improvements will be secured.

The Tri-County Medical Society, composed of Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties, held a meeting in Salinas January 8th. The papers read were by Dr. Saxton Pope of Watsonville, on "Medical Charlatans," and by Dr. N. E. Richardson of Salinas, on "Some Notes on the Treatment of Cancer of the Cervix by the Roentgen Rays; With Report of a Case."

This was the first meeting held for several years, but we hope to continue them, as they have proved very profitable, both scientifically as well as socially.

N. E. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

Orange County.

The Orange County Medical Association held its regular monthly meeting in Santa Ana February 6th. A communication was read from Dr. Philip Mills Jones relative to a visit by him to the physicians of the county, and the members were unanimous in a request for Dr. Jones to visit the county.

An interesting letter from Dr. R. A. Cushman was read giving a plain, simple classification of the different forms of insanity. The doctor urged physicians to give this matter more attention, as their papers accompany the patient to the state asylums and are an index of their attainments along these lines. No doubt, when hurriedly or carelessly made out, they are a source of amusement to the asylum physicians. The paper of the evening was read by the secretary, the title being "Club-foot," which was discussed by those present. The society accepted an invitation from Dr. Freeman to meet in Fullerton at their next regular meeting, March 6th.

H. S. GORDON, Secretary.

Riverside County.

The Riverside County Medical Society met in regular session on Monday evening, January 8th. Those present were: Drs. Sawyer, Van Zwahlenburg, Parker, Girdlestone, Kendall, Baird, Martin, Dickson, Walker, Griffith and Outwater. Dr. F. M. Pottenger and Dr. Dudley Tait were also present as guests.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The secretary read a number of communications, and reported that three applications for membership had been received. He also stated that there were eighteen physicians in good standing in the society on January 1, 1906.

The treasurer made a report as to the financial status of the society and on his motion the president appointed Drs. Sawyer and Martin a committee to audit his accounts.

The committee on membership reported in favor of the applications of Dr. Thos. R. Griffith, Riverside; Dr. Chas. E. Winslow, San Jacinto; Dr. G. D. Keeler, Thermal, and they were duly elected to membership in the society.

This being the annual meeting the society elected officers for the current year, with the following result: President, H. R. Martin; vice-president, Sam'l Outwater; secretary, C. Van Zwahlenburg.

Dr. F. M. Pottenger of the Pottenger Sanatorium, Monrovia, now gave a very interesting and instructive address on the "Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis." A vote of thanks was given to him for his kindness in appearing before the society.

Dr. W. B. Sawyer then read a paper, "The Substance and The Shadow," and, in an exceedingly witty, humorous and telling manner, paid his attention to the legion of quacks who infest all branches of the healing art.

We were very fortunate in having with us Dr. Dudley Tait of San Francisco, one of the State Board of Medical Examiners, and he kindly consented to speak on some of the interesting points brought out in the papers presented.

At midnight we were invited by Mrs. Martin, our hostess, to the dining room to partake of the bounteous supper which she had very kindly prepared. A vote of thanks was given to Dr. and Mrs. Martin for their kindness in entertaining us.

SAM'L OUTWATER, Secretary.

San Joaquin County.

The regular monthly meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society was held in the office of Dr. Minerva Goodman, January 26, 1906; Dr. Charles R. Harry in the chair. Members present: Drs. C. R. Harry, Margaret H. Smyth, E. L. Blackmun, S. W. R. Langdon, S. B. Davis, W. S. Snedigar, Ira B. Ladd, M. C. Taylor, J. P. Hull and Barton J. Powell.

The question as to admitting Homeopaths and Eclectics to membership in our society was again discussed, and it was decided that the San Joaquin County Medical Society in the future invite all reputable practitioners to become members of our society. It was also carried by a three-fourths vote of the society that in the future the offices of secretary and treasurer be combined.

Dr. Minerva Goodman reported a case of noma—a case that came under her inspection some months past. The doctor reported the case in detail, and a complete blood count was carefully reported up to the time of the death of the patient. The discussion was opened by Dr. J. P. Hull. Dr. Ladd reported having treated a case of noma a few years ago. The case was freely discussed by the other members present.

BARTON J. POWELL, Secretary.

Santa Clara County.

At a stated meeting of the Santa Clara County Medical Society, held January 17, 1906, the following resolutions offered by Dr. Lincoln Cothran, of San Jose, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of the Santa Clara County Medical Society are hereby given to our STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL, to the *Ladies' Home Journal* and to *Collier's Weekly* for their efforts to suppress the nostrum evil that has so long disgraced our country and also for their exposures of the unholy alliance of the advertised nostrum proprietors by which they have degraded newspapers and druggists to sharing with them the profits of falsehoods and frauds.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions, signed by the president and secretary of this society, be forwarded to our STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL, to the *Ladies' Home Journal* and to *Collier's Weekly*.

The following resolutions introduced by Dr. M. A. Southworth and seconded by Dr. J. F. Burns were also unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Santa Clara County Medical Society hold that medical and surgical contract practice is unethical.

Resolved, That the Secretary forward a copy of these resolutions to the secretary of the California State Medical Society.

A. E. OSBORNE, Secretary.

Shasta County.

Shasta County Medical Society met in regular session January 20, 1906.

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted.

Drs. B. F. Saylor of French Gulch, E. J. Cornish of Lamoine, and Wm. E. Dozier of Winthrop, were unanimously elected to membership in our society.

Under the head of Written Communications, a letter was read from Dr. Philip Mills Jones of San Francisco, secretary of the State Society, commending our action and argument with the local Aerie of Eagles.

On motion, duly seconded, by unanimous vote the secretary was instructed to invite Dr. Jones to meet with us at our next regular meeting on the 21st of April, 1906.

A letter of resignation from membership in the Shasta County Medical Society from Dr. C. W. Bryant was read, in the following language:

"To the, Shasta County Medical Society:

"Gentlemen: Regarding your action relating to physicians who follow contract society and lodge practice as direct attack upon fraternal benefit organizations, being a member and physician under contract with societies and fraternal organizations, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Shasta County Medical Society and sincerely hope and trust the same will be accepted.

(Signed) "C. W. BRYANT, M. D."

Relating to the foregoing the following resolution was offered by Dr. C. E. Reed:

Resolved, That the resignation of Dr. C. W. Bryant be not accepted on account of its disrespectful language to the Medical Society, and, further, be it

Resolved, That his name be dropped from the roll of membership of the Shasta County Medical Society for accepting contracts and continued performance of contract lodge practice, which has been officially declared unlawful by previous action of this society, as stated in his letter to the Medical Society.

(Signed) C. E. REED, M. D.

The resolutions were referred by the chair to the Executive Committee for action.

An interesting paper on the subject of "Ectopic Pregnancy—Its Frequency, Diagnosis and Treatment" was read by Dr. C. J. Teass of Kennett, and discussed by Drs. C. E. Reed, L. A. Bauter, C. E. Boynton and R. F. Wallace.

Under head of New Business Drs. O. J. Lawry of Redding and C. J. Teass of Kennett were elected as delegates to the next meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California; Drs. C. E. Reed and R. F. Wallace as alternates.

It being the regular meeting for installation of officers, after an interesting resume of our work under his administration by the retiring president, Dr. O. J. Lawry, Dr. C. E. Reed of Redding was duly installed as president for the ensuing year.

Society then adjourned to meet in regular session on the 21st of April, 1906.

R. F. WALLACE, Secretary.

Sonoma County.

The regular monthly meeting of the Sonoma County Medical Society was held Thursday evening, January 11th.

Dr. Stuart gave a most interesting address on "American Medicine," a history of medicine in this country from the settlement of Jamestown, in 1607, to date.

The following new officers were installed: A. McG. Stuart, president; J. H. McLeod, vice-president; E. M. Yates, acting secretary until Dr. Mallory's return; Lizzie Lain, treasurer; Drs. Seawell and Kerr, delegates to State Society, and Drs. Anderson and Sprague, alternates; Dr. Urban, to Board of Censors

San Francisco County Medical Society.

The meeting of the directors of the San Francisco County Medical Society was called to order January 16, 1906, at 8:30 P. M., President Terry in the Chair. At this time the following directors were present: Drs. Jones, Rixford, Cooper, Morrow, Ophuls, Gibbons, Cheney, Ryfkogel, Terry, Carpenter, Watt, Blumer, Barbat.

The minutes of the last regular meeting of the County Medical Society were read by the secretary and approved.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors were read by the secretary and approved.

Reports of officers: The following appointments were reported for the committees: Committee on Admissions—Drs. E. G. Frisbie (chairman), L. A. Draper, W. R. Dorr, H. P. Roberts, J. Van Denburg; Committee on Ethics—Drs. D'A. Power (chairman), Clark Burnham, R. K. Smith, H. B. Hill, L. M. F. Wanzer; Committee on Finance—Drs. F. B. Carpenter (chairman), Geo. Ebright, A. H. Giannini; Committee on Library—Drs. H. C. Moffitt (chairman), A. J. Lartigau, Herbert Gunn; Executive Committee—Drs. A. W. Hewlett (chairman), Chas. Levison, Rene Bine; Committee on Public Health—Drs. Wm. Ophuls (chairman), A. E. Taylor, John Gallwey, Alice Woods, J. B. Frankenheimer; Milk Commission—Drs. A. B. Spalding, Dr. W. F. Cheney, Geo. Evans, A. E. Taylor, R. L. Porter.

As chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Carpenter made the following verbal report: "I would only like to state that the Finance Committee would like to have all bills put into the hands of the committee as early as possible, and at least as early as the 25th of the month, in order that they may be passed upon and have everything ready for the first of the month."

Dr. Rixford, treasurer, brought up the matter of his bond, stating that the by-laws provided that a bond should be presented for \$5000. He said that it had been customary for the bonds to be paid by the society at the rate of \$10 per thousand. That Dr. Barkan, in speaking of the matter, had offered to go on his bond and thus save the society. He said that he had a bond drawn up by a notary public, which could be acted upon by the Board of Directors. Dr. Rixford furthermore presented a blank voucher form for the consideration of the Board, for the paying of bills.

Dr. Carpenter moved that the treasurer be authorized to have the vouchers printed similar to the form presented.

It was suggested that perhaps the Finance Committee should be consulted.

Dr. Carpenter made an amendment to his motion that the Finance Committee confer with Dr. Rixford on the subject of the vouchers. Seconded. Carried.

Treasurer Rixford presented a bill for the printing of the by-laws, amounting to \$37.50. It was moved that this bill be paid. Seconded and carried.

The bond presented by Dr. Rixford was read by the secretary.

Dr. Carpenter moved that the bond be accepted by the secretary. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Barbat made a motion that both Dr. Rixford and Dr. Barkan receive thanks from the County Medical Society for the action taken with regard to the bond. Motion seconded. Carried.

The secretary announced that on account of the absence of Dr. Wemple, the report of the Finance Committee would not be presented until next meeting.

Unfinished business: The secretary stated that there was a letter from Dr. P. J. Conran refusing to pay his dues. Letter read by the secretary. It was moved and seconded that Dr. Conran be dropped.

Dr. Jones made an amendment that the name of Dr. Conran be dropped from the roll of the society and the account for his JOURNAL be referred to the secretary of the State Society. Motion seconded and carried.

The account of Dr. I. Cohen of Napa was presented for consideration by the secretary, who stated that Dr. Cohen now owed \$13 up to January.

Motion made that the action on Dr. Cohen be postponed until 1906 list should come out. Motion seconded. Carried.

The account of Dr. A. Schloss, who owed \$18, was presented by the secretary, who stated that he refused to pay the collector. Motion made that Dr. Schloss be dropped from the roll. Motion seconded. Carried.

The secretary announced that Dr. John Stile refused to pay the collector.

Dr. Jones called attention to the fact that it is provided in the by-laws that the secretary drop the names of delinquents from the roll and that they did not need to be gone over by the directors.

Dr. Carpenter, on behalf of the Executive Committee, reported that two rooms on the second floor on the north side had been offered for the library, and that there was nothing available in the building otherwise.

Dr. Rixford moved that the Executive Committee be given further time to investigate the matter of library rooms. The motion seconded. Carried.

It was moved that the same committee that had charge be requested to continue its efforts. Motion seconded. Carried.

New business: The secretary reported the illness of Dr. Westerberg, saying that Dr. Fehlen had reported it as a hopeless case. He said that Dr. Westerberg wished to resign, but still owed \$5, and wished to resign in good standing. It was moved that the \$5 be remitted to Dr. Westerberg and his resignation be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Dr. Rixford moved that this action be reconsidered. Motion seconded and carried.

Dr. Rixford moved that the present indebtedness and dues for 1906 be remitted. Motion seconded and carried.

The secretary read the resignation of Dr. Kate I. Brady. It was moved that it be accepted. Seconded and carried.

The resignation of Dr. Orr was read by the secretary. It was moved and seconded that this resignation be accepted. Motion carried.

The resignation of Dr. F. Farrow was read by the secretary. It was moved and seconded that this resignation be accepted. Motion carried.

A request from Dr. Rupert Blue was read by the secretary asking for a leave of absence for one year, without dues, be granted him. It was moved and seconded that he be granted time and his dues be remitted. Motion carried.

Secretary read the resignation of Dr. W. H. Heinzman, who wished a transfer card to Austin, Nev. Moved and seconded that this be accepted. Motion carried.

A letter was read by the secretary from Dr. O. Taylor requesting a leave of absence from August, 1905 to 1906. It was moved and seconded that the present indebtedness of Dr. Taylor be remitted and he be given leave of absence until July 1, 1906. This motion was seconded and carried.

A letter was read by the secretary regarding the bill now before the United States Congress relating to abolishing contract surgeons.

Dr. Jones moved that the secretary be instructed to advise our Senators and Representatives in Congress that the San Francisco County Medical Society approves of the bill to regulate the United States Army Medical Department. This motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Rixford made an amendment to the effect that the secretary's next announcement include an invitation to each member to write to the Congressmen.

The death of Dr. Chismore was announced.

Dr. Ophuls moved that the president appoint a committee of three to take what action is deemed proper in regard to the death of Dr. Geo. Chismore. This motion was seconded and carried.

President Terry appointed Drs. Sherman, Newmark and Rixford as committee to act on the death of Dr. Chismore.

Dr. Barbat made the suggestion that the meeting of the directors take place one week before or after the regular meetings, as there was not time in which to transact business on the same evening with the regular meeting.

Dr. Jones made the suggestion that the scientific meetings of the society come more often than once a month, stating that the Los Angeles Society now had scientific meetings every week. He said there was enough material available to keep the attention of the society for one evening a week.

Dr. Jones made a motion that the chair appoint a special committee of three to consider the plan of weekly meetings for this society and present their considerations to the Board of Directors. This motion was seconded and carried.

Election of delegates and alternates for the State Society: The following names were submitted for nomination for delegates: Drs. Brown, Tait, Huntington, Levison, Morrow, Nagle, Somers, D'A. Power, W. S. Thorne, Lartigau, Pond, Moffitt, Kerr.

President Terry appointed Drs. Cheney and Hunkin tellers.

There being no further nominations, the ballot was counted and the president announced the following elected as delegates: Drs. Morrow, Hunkin, Kerr, Huntington, Brown, Lartigau, Somers, Tait.

Nominations were then called for for the alternates and the following names submitted: Drs. Brunn, Burrows, Clark Burnham, R. D. Cohn, Geo. Ebricht, E. G. Frisbie, H. B. Graham, Harold Hill, V. H. Hulen, Chas. Levison, H. Kugeler, Jas. Watkins, A. H. Taylor, F. R. Starr, Spencer, A. B. Spalding, Raymond Russ, D'A. Power, Perry, E. Wemple, Sr., G. P. Pond.

There being no further nominating, the nominations were closed and the secretary instructed to cast the ballot for these members as alternates. The secretary reported the ballot cast and they were duly declared alternates for the State Society.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P. M.

Snake Venom a Product of Digestion.

Experiments with the production of poison by vipers have indicated that the secretion of the poison is closely connected with the process of digestion. Dr. G. de Christini states that from his experiments he concludes that the poison glands of the snake take the place of the salivary glands in the higher vertebrates, and are designed to free the organism from poison products. Extirpation of the glands caused death, as did also prevention of the excretion of the poison. The poison is secreted under the influence of digestive stimuli, and when milk, as an example of easily digested food, was given to snakes, the poison became less intense. Dr. de Christini concludes that the secretion of the poison glands has the same function as that of the kidneys; that is, to free the body from the poisonous substances in the blood, from which the venom is formed.—*Journal A. M. A.*

Scopolamine-Morphine Anesthesia.

Among the many new anesthetics which are tried and rejected every few years, the combination of scopolamine and morphine bids fair to obtain and to hold the favor of surgeons and obstetricians. The combination has been in use in Europe since Schneiderlin first advised it in 1900. The development and general introduction of the method is linked with the name of Korff, of Freiburg, who has given the best instructions as to its use.

Morphine 3 (three) centigrams—one-half grain mixed in water with scopolamine hydrobromate 12 (twelve) decimilligrams—one-fiftieth grain¹ is divided into three doses, which are injected hypodermatically, one dose two and one-half, one dose one and one-half, one dose one-half hour before the time set for the operation. The patients become drowsy after

the first dose, sleep fairly soundly after the second, and are fast asleep and insensible to pain after the third dose. Operations lasting hours, if necessary, can then be performed without the patient knowing or feeling or remembering anything about the operation. Such, at least, is the result in one-third to one-half of the cases. In the rest of the cases the patients are sleepy and semi-conscious, but not sufficiently so to allow extensive operating. Then, in addition to scopolamine-morphine, either chloroform or ether or local anesthesia can be used. The advantage of the scopolamine-morphine, however, is quite marked even then, as the amount of chloroform or ether necessary is extremely small, if scopolamine-morphine has been administered beforehand.

The diminution of the amount of chloroform or ether, if needed after this injection, is so pronounced and so valuable that a number of surgeons prefer to use a small amount of scopolamine-morphine (about half the dose mentioned above, and injected about half an hour before the operation), merely as a preliminary to the chloroform or ether to be given afterwards. These surgeons then do not even attempt to perform the operation under the scopolamine-morphine anesthesia, but use it merely with the purpose of saving ether or chloroform, and for the sake of the other advantages to be derived from scopolamine-morphine. Our own experience with scopolamine-morphine (over one hundred operations), when used exclusively, has been so satisfactory that we use the full dose every time, hoping to be able to perform the entire operation without a drop of chloroform or ether. The spectacle of a patient lying quietly on the table and passing through a vaginal hysterectomy, for instance, without a visible anesthetic or anesthetic, is rather weird in the beginning, particularly if the patient, as some do, has the eyes open and seems to be looking on.

The advantages of the anesthetic are objective and subjective ones. Among the latter, it is of particular importance that the worry and excitement preceding the administration of a general anesthetic, or even the transportation of the patients to the operating room, are entirely absent. Also, the patients have no recollection of anything which takes place after the first or second injection. They go to sleep in their beds and wake up in their beds without remembering anything of the trying details connected with a surgical operation. In the same way the disagreeable sensations of the first few hours after the operation are abolished, as the patients sleep about five hours after the last injection.

Among the objective advantages may be mentioned the dryness of the mouth, which prevents lung complications, even where ether has to be added, or where operations near or in the mouth or throat have to be performed. After the operation, vomiting is entirely absent if scopolamine-morphine alone is used, and is almost absent if ether or chloroform have to be added. The scopolamine-morphine does not interfere with the excretory functions after the anesthesia has worn off.

We have never used scopolamine-morphine on children under twelve years; on the other hand, scopolamine-morphine is invaluable in old and decrepit patients, where chloroform or ether would be dreaded. The older and more feeble the patient, the smaller the dose of scopolamine-morphine needed for complete anesthesia; so that in such cases two-thirds or even one-third of the dose mentioned above is sufficient.

Except as to the production of sleep and insensibility to pain, scopolamine and morphine are antagonistic to a certain degree, so that, for instance, the depression of the circulation, which might be feared as a consequence of a large dose of morphine, is counteracted successfully by the scopolamine. There is no record that a human being has ever been killed by scopolamine, even if given in much larger doses than

¹Note: The dose given in *Annals of Surgery*, August 1905, page 195, is a misprint